(e) The following steps have been taken by the CBSE to make it more pro-active to students' interests:

— E-counselling prior to the conduct of examination.

— Answering queries of the students, teachers and parents through media.

— Tele-counselling by involving experienced counsellors, principals and educators.

— Publication of the syllabi and Sample Question Papers on the CBSE website.

Internal assessment

685. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to initiate steps to introduce internal assessment in the subjects of mathematics, science and social science;

(b) the extent to which the CBSE would be able to standardise such internal assessment;

(c) whether such changes have already been implemented; and

(d) the details of the progress of a system of internal assessment for all the subjects for school students by the CBSE?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD.ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced internal assessment in the subjects of mathematics, science and social science at the secondary level.

(b) Aweightage of 20% has been allocated for the internal assessment in mathematics, science and social science.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The internal assessment in the subject of social sciences was introduced in class IX from the academic year 2004-05. The students appearing in March, 2006 in the class X examination will have a component of internal assessment. For the subjects of mathematics and science, the component of internal assessment has been introduced in

class IX from the academic year 2005-06 and in class X from the academic year 2006-07. The Board is also in the process of planning and developing appropriate strategies in respect of other subjects.

Women literacy and employment

†686. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the comparative status with regard to women literacy and employment, State-wise, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the details of the schemes being formulated and implemented by Government to educate women and to create employment opportunities for them in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the amount allocated and released by Government in this regard during the last three years and the amount utilized under this head so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) A Statement showing State-wise number of literate women in 7+ age group as per 2001 Census and number of women employed in the organised sector as available with Directorate General of Employment and Training, Employment Market Information Programme as on 31.3.2003 is enclosed as per Statement (See below).

(b) The main objective of National Literacy Mission is to import functional literacy to non-literates in the age group of 15-35 years through literacy campaigns. The literacy programme is followed by linking literacy with skill upgradation and quality of life improvement in the Continuing Education Programme. Further under the scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan, vocational training programmes in various trades are provided to the beneficiaries including women.

In Uttar Pradesh, all districts have been covered under Literacy Campaigns. Of these, 21 districts are implementing Continuing Education Programme. In addition, 31 Jan Shikshan Sansthans have been set up in Uttar Pradesh to impart vocational training to the targeted beneficiaries including women.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.